

James Brown Warehouse
142-152 South Water Street
Providence
Providence County
Rhode Island

HABS No. RI-246

HABS
RI,
4-PROV,
143-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

JAMES BROWN WAREHOUSE

Address: 142-152 South Water Street, Providence, Providence
County, Rhode Island

Present Owner: Demolished

HABS

RI,

Brief Statement This is an example of the early commercial
of Significance: buildings along the Providence waterfront.

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HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Original and subsequent owners:

1759 John Brown buys this land from Joseph Whipple

1798 A house, wharf, and shop used as a counting house and owned by John Brown on this property. (From John Brown Papers at the Rhode Island Historical Society)

1798 U.S. Tax List shows: Store, wharf owned by John Brown Bounded: E on Water Street 67', depth to the head of the river. N and S on gangways. Store 100' x 24'...2 stories, wood. Store 50' x 24'... 2 stories, wood. Edward Dickens, tenant

1803 John Brown wills to his son James Brown his counting house shop (wood).

1823 Isaac Brown, trustee sells to Sullivan Dorr for \$20,825 "a certain lot of land with brick and stone building on South Water Street measuring 81.3. Bounded N/ly on a 40' street running back 67' which separates it from land formerly of John Eveleth; S/ly on a 20' street which separates it from property of Thomas Sabin; E/ly on two lot formerly of estate hereby conveyed. The dividing line between which and the lot hereby granted is 12' E/ly of the stone wall of the said brick and stone store standing on the lot hereby granted, and running parallel with said E line of brick and stone store, and from the W/ly side of said South Water Street to channel of the River or W/ly of said lot, it being the W/ly part of the estate purchased by grantor in trust of James Brown in 1822 and formerly property of the late John Brown and part of his Counting Room Estate." - Deed Book 45, page 403, in Providence City Hall.

1845 Sullivan Dorr sells to Seth Adams, merchant, for \$20,500 this same property. "subject to relaying of South Water Street on west front of said store which was conveyed to Town of Providence in 1823 whereby gangway running from Main to South Water Street as relaid is made 40' wide."

1854 Property is taxed to Seth Adams.

1877 Elizabeth B Updike, Harriet A Henshaw, Susan A Howe, and Abijah Adams each own 1/4 of this property.

1896 Property is taxed to Elizabeth B Updike Estate.

1930 Martha L Adams, widow of Bigelow Adams, and Emerson E Pease are taxed for this property

1945 Gertrude, Emerson P, and William R Hempstead, and Emerson E Pease are joint tenants in trust.

Dec. 1957 Property is owned by the Freeway Realty Company.

Date of erection: Between 1803 and 1823.

Prepared by Antoinette F. Downing and Elvira Gowdey
for the Providence Preservation Society
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